CLAIMS

1. A composition for delaying progression of prostatic tumor cells to an androgen-independent state, comprising an antisense oligonucleotide which inhibits expression of TRPM-2 by the tumor cells, whereby when prostatic tumor cells are treated with the composition the progression to androgen independence is delayed.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to a region of TRPM-2 mRNA including the translation initiation or termination site.

3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 4.

4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 5.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 12.

6. A composition for enhancing the chemo- or radiation sensitivity of cancer cells in an individual suffering from a cancer that expresses TRPM-2 in amounts different from normal tissue of the same type, comprising a material effective to inhibit expression of TRPM-2 by cancer cells, whereby when the composition is administered the chemo- or radiation sensitivity of the cancer cells is enhanced.

7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the material is an antisense oligonucleotide.

8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to a region of TRPM-2 mRNA including the translation initiation or termination site.

9. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 4.

10. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 5.

11. The composition of claim 7, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 12.

12. The composition of any claim 1, further comprising a second antisense oligodeoxynucleotide which inhibits expression of an anti-apoptotic protein other than TRPM-2.

13. The composition of claim 12, wherein the second antisense oligodeoxynucleotide is antisense Bcl-2 oligodeoxynucleotide.

14. The composition of claim 12, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is complementary to a region of TRPM-2 mRNA including the translation initiation or termination site.

15. The composition of claim 14, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is modified to increase the stability of the ODN *in vivo*.

16. The composition of claim 12, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 4.

17. The composition of claim 12, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 5.

18. The composition of claim 12, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 12.

19. An oligonucleotide consisting of the sequence set forth in Seq. ID No. 4.

20. An oligonucleotide consisting of the sequence set forth in Seq. ID No. 5.

21. An oligonucleotide consisting of the sequence set forth in Seq. ID No. 12.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an antisense oligonucleotide which is complementary to TRPM-2 mRNA and which comprises a continuous sequence of bases as set forth in any of Seq. ID Nos 4, 5 and 12 and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier suitable for human administration for providing the olignucleotide to a mammalian subject to reduce expression of TRPM-2.

23. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a lipid carrier.

24. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, further comprising an additional antisense oligonucleotide binds specifically to a sequence other than TRPM-2 mRNA.

25. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 24, wherein the additional antisense oligonucleotide binds specifically to a sequence selected from among Bcl-2, Bcl-1x and c-myc.

26. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 25, wherein the additional oligonucleotide consists of the sequence set forth in the Seq. ID No. 13.

27. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is modified to increase the stability of the ODN *in vivo*.